

Great Teaching and Leading Fund

2015-2016 Application FAQs

rev. 7/17/2015

NOTE: Interested applicants have submitted a number of questions, often similar in nature or topic area. They have been grouped below for easier review.

Questions:

- Can an entity submit more than one application?
- Can you clarify if a non-profit organization needs to be partnered with a school/district?
- Does the 20% apply to each entity as a whole? Or, can different “departments” within an entity be granted up to the 20%? (For example, up to 20% for science standards and up to another 20% for NEPF?)
- If two or more entities apply together, does the cap of \$980,000 still apply?
- Can different entities collaborate in applying for the grant? For example, could more than one charter school collaborate on applying for funding for professional development for the science standards?
- Can you please clarify whether there is a restriction on the number of proposals submitted by one entity?
- If another eligible entity plans to contract with a non-profit as a vendor, does this 'subtract' from the cap for any one organization? Or are both expenses considered separate because the applicants are different?

Answer:

As long as entities meet the outlined criteria, there is no limit on the number of applications they may submit. Entities may partner with others, but only one may be designated as the “sole fiscal agent” for the purposes of distribution from NDE. The total amount(s) awarded to each fiscal agent, regardless of the number of applications and or “departments” representing that entity, must not exceed \$980,000. There is no requirement that entities must be partnered with districts. However, all awardees will be expected to demonstrate effectiveness in use of the grant money improving the achievement of pupils; assisting teachers, administrators and other licensed educational personnel; and improving the recruitment, selection and retention of effective teachers and principals.

Questions:

- What can the money be spent on? (For example, is tuition reimbursement permitted?)
- Can the grant funds be used for tuition reimbursement for teachers obtaining their SpEd or ELL endorsements?
- Are instructional supplies to support teacher instruction in the area of science allowable?

Answer:

The intent of SB474 is to provide funding for professional development, training, peer assistance/review, preparation, and recruitment/retention programs. Section 1.5 of the bill includes guidelines for how money awarded through the GTLF shall be spent, which does not include classroom materials or supplies for teachers.

Questions:

- Will priority for proposals be given for serving high risk schools? (i.e. high FRL, ELL, 1 or 2 star schools) in any of the four grant categories?
- Do you want us to prioritize our requests in the four funding categories?

Answer:

Applicants are encouraged to refer to the specified amounts the Department will be recommending for funding each of the priority areas. However, the Board may distribute funds differently and/or may choose to prioritize by other factors.

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Questions:

- Do you have a limit on indirect costs because it is state appropriated funds?
- Is there an F&A limit for the budget?
- What is your agency's indirect cost policy? Please provide the indirect costs related to all components of this grant (science standards, implementation, recruitment, selection, & retention and leadership training/development)

Answer:

The bill does not provide for the Department to set an indirect cost/F&A limit. However, school districts have approved indirect rates with the Department and those rates should be used by districts. In addition, the Department will recommend the evaluation committee and the Board utilize the federal rate for unrestricted grants of 20.4 percent established for NDE. Please note the Board will have the final determination on this factor and may choose a different rate or may not allow indirect costs; staff can only recommend.

Questions:

- We would like to include some activities that will run through next summer as part of our proposal. Can some of the 2015-2016 awarded funds blend into summer/through August 2016?
- We intend to submit an application that will result the hiring/placement of classroom teachers in the fall of 2016. Since the fund term technically ends in June 2016, how would you propose we describe this in our budget narrative?
- The bill says that grants can be awarded for a period of up to 3 years, so why does the application say that all money included in this application must be spent by June 30?

Answer:

The bill allows for funds to be awarded for a period of up to three years. Since the GTLF priorities have not yet been established beyond the 2015-2016 school year, this year's grant funds will need to be expended prior to June 30, 2016. Work may continue after that date, however. Because all 2015-2016 grants will be awarded for one year, a report demonstrating the outlined effectiveness measures is to be submitted to the Superintendent within 120 days after the conclusion of the grant (October 31, 2016).

Question:

Will this fund allow for research? In other words, will we be able to use data outcomes to publish the work in research journals?

Answer:

There is nothing that would preclude training/professional development resulting from GTL funds being used for research and/or publication.